

## Claims

1. An effects application system comprising:  
an effects source for applying an effect onto an image and  
a translucent masking tool which defines a masked portion that prevents the effects source from applying the effect onto the masked portion of the image.
2. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent masking tool has a customizable shape.
3. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent masking tool is movable relative to the image.
4. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the translucent masking tool simulates a fixed edge.
5. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the masked portion of the image is denoted by cross-hatching while the masked portion of the image is still viewable by a user.
6. The effects application system according to Claim 1 wherein the masked portion of the image is denoted by shading while the masked portion of the image is still viewable by a user.

7. A method of masking comprising:  
positioning a masking tool over a masked portion of an image;  
applying an effect onto the image outside the masked portion; and  
dynamically moving the masking tool while applying the effect wherein the  
masked portion changes as the masking tool is dynamically moved.
8. The method according to Claim 7 further comprising customizing a shape of the  
masking tool.
9. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masking tool is translucent.
10. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masked portion of the image is  
viewable to a user.
11. The method according to Claim 7 wherein the masked portion of the image is  
shaded.
12. The method according to Claim 7 wherein dynamically moving the masking tool  
and applying the effect occur simultaneously.
13. The method according to Claim 7 further comprising applying multiple masking  
tools onto the image.